

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2038

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, WB

SUBJECT: GERMAN ENERGYCRISIS: FURTHER POSSIBLE MEASURES
AND BERLIN IMPLICATIONS

1. AT A MEETING WITH ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS,
CALLED AT HIS INITIATIVE, FEDERAL PLENIPOTENTIARY IN
BERLING, FRG MINISTER EGON BAHR SAID IT WAS HIGHLY PROBABLE
THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EITHER JUST PRIOR TO OR
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY WILL ANNOUNCE
MORE STRINGENT ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURE. THIS
PROBABLY WILL INVOLVE EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT SUNDAY
DRIVING BAN TO INCLUDE HALF A DAY SATURDAY AND
POSSIBLY MORE RIGID ENFORCEMENT CERTAIN DETAILS

2. IN THINKING OUT LOUD ON THIS MATTER, BAHR
SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEASURES
TAKEN IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC BE APPLIED TO BERLIN,
PERHAPS EXCEPT FOR TAKING INTO
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ACCOUNT FACT THAT SOME WEST BERLINERS WORKING

IN FEDREP MIGHT BE SEPARATED FROM FAMILIES
AND SHOULD HAVE OPTION TO JOIN THEM ON WEEKENDS
AND THAT WEST BERLINERS HAVING FAMILIES IN
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC BE GIVEN SIMILAR OPTION.
BAHR'S GREAT CONCERN HOWEVER WAS THAT EXCEPTIONS
MIGHT LEND THEMSELVES TO VIOLATIONS OF
REGULATIONS AND EVEN ABUSE OF PRIVILEGE.

3. BAHR DID NOT EXPECT IMMEDIATE ANSWER FROM ALLIES. HE
WANTED TO RAISE SUBJECT FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
AND FURTHER CONSULTATION.

4. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION I POINTED OUT TO
BAHR THAT WE FULLY AGREED THAT INTERNAL BERLIN REGIMEN
SHOULD MATCH THAT OF OTHER FEDERAL
CITIES. HOWEVER, IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO MAKE
CERTAIN THAT IN DOING SO, ARRANGMENTS ESTABLISHED
BY AGREEMENT I.E. QA, NOT BE PERMITTED TO FALL INTO DISUSE
OR RESTRICTED IN SUCH WAY AS TO PUT A GREATER
BURDEN ON BERLINERS THAN ON OTHER CITIZENS
OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION I
NOTED THAT RIGHT OF TRANSIT AND VISITS TO
EAST BERLIN/GDR SHOULD BE PROTECTED
AND NOT LOST BY DISUSE IN THE CONTEXT OF ENERGY
RESTRICTIONS.

5. THIS POSITION WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY
THE OTHER ALLIES. BAHR, HOWEVER, WAS NOT
FULLY CONVINCED, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN
THAT THE BERLINERS NOT BE GIVEN EXCEPTIONAL
TREATMENT AND THAT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS NOT BE
ABUSED.

6. IT WAS AGREED HOWEVER THAT MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED
FURTHER AMONG THE ALLIES AND SENAT
AND THAT SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
WILL BE MADE SOONEST.KLEIN

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